

TRUE AS STEEL

Is This Devoted American Wife
of the Gallant De Mores.

ROMANCE AND TRAGEDY

In the Lives of the French Marquis
and His Loyal American Wife—His
Career in America—His Duel With
Captain Mayer and His Assassination
in Africa—The American Wife
Hanging Doggedly on the Trail of
His Murderers.

For a number of years Marquis De Mores was one of the most conspicuous figures in the northwestern states. He had a ranch in North Dakota, was interested in cattle raising in Montana and during his visits to St. Paul became widely known there and eventually started the first beef refrigerating warehouse in that region. He was a gay, dashing fellow, adventurous to the verge of daring, and while he made many friends throughout the northwest he incurred the enmity of some and participated in several affairs in which pistols figured conspicuously.

The young Frenchman returned to his native country about a dozen years ago, taking with him an American wife, whom he first met in New York. Their romantic marriage and subsequent wild life together in Montana, his splendid visionaries schemes, his sensational failure, his subsequent dueling escapades in France and his assassination in Africa are still fresh in the minds of every reader of American newspapers.

And yet, even with all that has been printed, the full story of the De Mores romance has never been told. The handsome young Frenchman's chroniclers have been prolific in tales of his recklessness, his love of newspaper publicity, the foreshadowing of his sensational Montana enterprise, his lack of business capacity and his personal eccentricities, but none has as yet done justice to his wife's unswerving love nor to the fact that the cause of many of his failures was his devotion to her ideas.

His Western experience was the central incident in the life of the debonair young marquis. It was during his stay in the West that the young wife risked her life to save his, an incident that is said to have influenced De Mores to his last day.

In 1883 De Mores married Marie Medora Von Hoffman, the pretty and clever young daughter of the millionaire banker, L. A. Von Hoffman, of New York. For some time he had been working on a scheme to compete with the beef trust by packing beef where the cattle were fed and shipping it to the Eastern market dressed or packed, expecting to save enough money on the difference in freight to enable him to underbid the trust.

The scheme was roundly condemned at the time by Eastern meat men, though Western cattlemen seem to have considered it feasible enough. Undismayed and backed by the wealth of his father-in-law, who furnished readily large sums for the enterprises, De Mores started West with his bride soon after the marriage.

He had obtained 25,000 acres of railroad grant land in the bad lands of eastern Montana, near the Dakota line. It was here he meant to erect his packing-houses and buy and keep his stock. A spot in a treeless "coolidge" in the center of the bad lands was chosen as a town site and the place was named Medora in honor of the marquis.

Montana was greatly agitated over the acquisition of this eccentric character and his money, but the cattlemen of his section were soon his bitter enemies. They fled him at every turn and they despised his good clothes, his English riding saddle, his dandified ways and his fences. These last were the ostensible bones of contention, but, cowboy like, their greatest scorn was for his English fashion of rising in his saddle when riding, a matter of continual wonder to the plainsmen, who sit in their Mexican saddles as if they were part of the animal under them.

De Mores' fences were undoubtedly a trial, both to him and to everyone else. He had surrounded his entire 25,000 acres of land with his fence. Such an article was unknown on the ranges, but the green marquis did not understand that. Besides, the fence crossed several of the cattle trails, so the cow punchers were obliged to cut through whenever they wanted to cross to new grazing ground or round up a herd. It kept the marquis and his men busy most of the time making repairs.

By spending money lavishly the building of the town was fairly rapid. Brick was imported from the east and a thoroughly up-to-date packing house was erected and equipped. A pretty little white cottage, French in style, was built for the home of the marquis and his wife, a station house was put up, residences for the men and a little Roman Catholic church were constructed and a crop of saloons and small stores soon appeared.

It was a prosperous town and its population soon increased. De Mores bought tens of thousands of cattle, spent money like a prince and brought such prosperity as had never been seen before in all the cattle country of Montana.

But still the cattlemen were not happy. At each new outrage of their western sense of the fitness of things more bad feeling was stirred up and De Mores felt that trouble was brewing. But he paid no heed, riding over the ranges daily as if every man in the state were his fast friend.

But one day things came to a climax, and it was while the titled cattle owner was out on the range.

Late in the afternoon, while pretty Mme. De Mores was in the little chapel, where she spent part of each day, a band of wild "cow-punchers," rather the worse for liquor, galloped into the little town and began "shooting it up," shouting the while for De Mores. They made no effort to hide their purpose. They were there to shoot down the young marquis on sight.

The little Eastern wife, reared in luxury, with every protection that a young girl could have, heard their cold-blooded threats and resolved to save him. She knew that he would soon come home riding behind the little white cottage and the big brick packing house and that he would be an easy mark for every man in the "coolidge."

She could not get to her house without being seen, so she braved it out. Stepping from the church in a dainty frock, the like of which had never been seen in that wild country before, she walked firmly across the main street within fifty feet of the desperadoes.

They knew with certainty that she was

going to warn her husband, but the did not raise a hand. They quieted down and stood watching her. Quickly she walked to the house, then out on the road to the rear and up the steep side of the coolidge wall to the summit. There she stood, silhouetted against the evening sky, a mark for any one of those men, all of them like a flash and a stroke of fate with a gun. She did not even look around, but waved a tiny handkerchief to someone beyond their view and stood waiting.

The cowboys looked at each other like a lot of schoolboys caught in mischief. Revolvers were slipped back into hip pockets, and after a few words of grumbling admiration the cowboys quickly wheeled about and rode off to their camp, which was just across a small river from the De Mores ranch, but some distance from the house.

It was dark when De Mores reached his house. His wife was still waiting on the hill overlooking the camp. Dismounting, he kissed her and as they walked to the little Western home with its three gables and its pretty furnishings from the Fifth avenue shops she told him of his escape.

"I must go to them at once," he said, this time without any show of vanity.

She tried to dissuade him. It was certain death, she said.

"I will have it out with those fellows once for all," he answered, and swinging himself into the saddle again he galloped to the river. Dismounting below the camp he tied his horse, forded the river and crept up quietly to the camp where the twenty or more men were grouped around the camp fire, still swearing eternal vengeance on the young "dude."

At an auspicious moment he stepped from his hiding place full into the blaze of the camp fire, quite unarmed save for his cattle whip.

"Well, here I am, men. Now, if any of you want anything with me this is your time. I'm ready to have it out."

And they had called him a coward! For a whole minute they were silent, overcome with astonishment. Then a voice was heard:

"Hell! Boys, he's a brick."

The love of reckless daring inherent in those wild Western fellows had made its appeal and a wild cheer went up for De Mores. The young dandy had to shake hands all around and then the party started for the town.

The marquis did the honors and he did not stint. It was a night of reckless dissipation such as Medora had never seen before and probably never will see again.

Those rough, childlike cattlemen never forgot it, and if the good will of the cow-punchers had been all that was required the marquis' enterprise would have been a brilliant success indeed.

As for the marquis, she was the idol of every man within ninety miles, the acknowledged queen of the cattle cow country, albeit an unwilling one.

For the marquis, who had lived three years in the lonesome settlement, was homesick. Even the comradeship of her husband could not reconcile her to that desolate country. There was not a woman in the place with whom she could associate. The few women who were there were either the regular hangers-on of a western camp or the uncouth wives of the rough cattlemen.

Her only companion, save her husband, was the priest at the little chapel, where she spent much time. Even he, excellent man that he was, was not a substitute for the womanly counsel and companionship that as a girl she had always had in such generous measure and that as a young wife she needed even more keenly.

As the months went by she pined and whitened. The desolate barrenness of that straight coiled wall, the depressing glimpse of the black, changeless hills just showing above the wall, the squalor of the little town and the feeling of utter isolation grew on the young wife's nerves until no sacrifice seemed too great to enable her to return to the life to which she was accustomed. She tried to be patient for her husband's sake, but could not hide her suffering. It was very apparent that she could not live long if she stayed in Medora.

The young man was at his wife's end. For other troubles also were heaping upon him. Disease and depredations were carrying off large numbers of his cattle. It was an early spring and an unusually severe winter had killed thousands. For some reason the cattle were not multiplying and the prospect was dark. Still De Mores was not ready to give up and he worked incessantly. The packing was never brought into full operation, the other problems of operation taking all his time. He was not ready for that yet.

Finally, thoroughly discouraged and wholly anxious about the condition of his wife, whose wants seem to have dominated all other factors in his life, he paid his debts, threw up the whole enterprise and left for the east.

He had spent upward of \$1,000,000 in the west. The subsequent important events in the life of the Marquis and Marquise De Mores are familiar. The pair returned to New York and then went to Paris, where the marquis became prominent among the anti-Semites. At one time he was arrested for complicity in an Orleanist plot for the overthrow of the republic.

In 1892 he was challenged to a duel by Captain Mayer, who resented the marquis' insults to his race. At the second lunge the marquis ran his sword through the gallant young captain's body below the armpit, inflicting a mortal wound. The dying man gave De Mores his hand.

In the spring of 1896 De Mores was commissioned by the French government to lead an expedition into the Sudan in Africa to enlist Arab chieftains in an effort to stop the encroachments of the British. Saying an affectionate farewell to his pretty American wife he started on his commission with a promise that he would be back within a few months. With a party of eight he hurried into Africa. He left Eltonia, a Tripolitan village, on June 5 for Ghadames with an escort of Tuaregs and Sahabans, who were armed with carbines. In a lonely spot his Tuareg escort turned on him and killed him. Twenty bullet holes were found in his body.

When the news of the massacre reached Paris M. Delahaye, the marquis's secretary, was dispatched by the heart-broken widow and was able to secure the body of De Mores and his companions who were slaughtered with him. They were buried in Paris and the plucky little American woman at once set about the task of finding her husband's slayers.

For this work she used the faithful Delahaye, who devoted six years and much money to running down the assassins. During all these years the marquis has remained in Paris, living practically in retirement. Every energy has been concentrated on the discovery and conviction of her husband's murderers. Every move of M. Delahaye has been watched and directed by her; every scrap of evidence has been submitted to her.

It is the result of these investigations which promises to be as sensational in its relation to high officials in the French government as the Dreyfus case.

If M. Delahaye proves his claims he will convict the French government of instigating the assassination of its own envoy to get rid of many undisclosed secrets in the Dreyfus case, facts menacing the peace of men high in official positions in the French republic, of which De Mores had knowledge.

These sensational allegations are to be made officially and backed with the volume of evidence collected by M. Delahaye in the courts in Tunis early in May.

The accused are high French officials in Algeria. The subject and the evidence have been discussed by M. Delahaye in a book he has written.

"It has been stated," he says, "that the caravan was composed of brave men devoted to their master. We can prove, on the contrary, that the caravan was organized expressly to lead De Mores to his death."

"It has been the boast of the chief assassin that he was entrusted with the work of conducting the unlucky marquis to the place where he was to meet his death."

"We accuse Colonel Rebillet of directly causing the death of the marquis."

"This officer, notwithstanding his rank, carries on trade in southern Tunis, which he seems to consider almost a private possession."

"We also accuse of complicity the resident general, M. Millet, who knew what was going to happen, but took not a single step to prevent a foul crime."

"The manner of the assassination shows how determinedly it was plotted. For three hours the marquis withstood a desperate siege with a gallantry which those who knew him can well picture. When his body was found twenty bullet holes were counted in it."

"One of our most important witnesses is an Arab named Taieb Ben Brahine. For two months he lived with the Chamba tribe, doing valuable detective work for us. Under promise of pardon he brought to Tunis four members of the tribe who had taken part in the murder. They were prepared to tell who had instigated it."

"What did the representatives of the French government do? They retaliated on the unfortunate Arab by persecuting his family. Owing to the resident's machinations the faithful Arab's son was put in danger of his life at the hands of the Chamba and was obliged to flee to Tunis."

And while all France is in a turmoil over the coming trial there is a sweet-faced little American woman with the memory of a brave and affectionate man in her heart, who is firmly and determinedly gripping the cords that may drag half a dozen notables to disgrace and relentlessly demanding justice from the nation in whose cause her husband sacrificed his life.

Care of the Eyes.

Avoid sudden changes from dark to bright light.

Take little of stimulants or drugs that affect the nervous system, patent and other medicines included.

Don't read when tired or when lying down.

Look up from reading or work when eyes feel tired.

Take care of the body and the body will take care of the eyes.

Before forty bathe the eyes twice daily in cold water; after forty use very hot water followed by cold water.

The older you grow the more you should avoid artificial light. Also get to bed early. Don't rely on your own judgment in getting glasses.

Don't give up in despair if a cataract or other disease should form in the eye. In these days of skillful dieting its progress may be stopped. A cataract can be removed painlessly and with little danger to vision.

The Higher Uses of Trees.

Most people have formed the habit of talking about shade trees, fruit trees and lumber as if shade, fruit and building materials were all for which the trees were good. Of course the artistic eye looks at them for beauty, the entomologist as harbors for insects and the botanist for herbarium specimens, but the true lover of the tree thinks of it in its wide value to all living things in the universe.

Though trees lack the power of volition and have no nervous system in the ordinary sense of the word, they are highly organized forms of life. They accomplish a vast amount of actual work in a day and earn their living as surely as you or I do. Their work is the world's work of the unselfish kind. They struggle for self-preservation and the perpetuation of their species; they return to the soil and to the atmosphere materials loaned them for food; they are altruistic in providing an abundance of fruit for the use of others; they furnish grateful shade to man and beast, are the refuge of birds and insects and add to the beauty of nature.

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Ketcham, J. H., N. Y., Hamilton.
Kitchen, Claude, N. C., the National.
Kitchin, W. W., N. C., the National.
Kleberg, Rudolph, Tex., 214 N. Cap. st.
Kluta, T. E., N. C., the National.
Knapp, C. L., N. Y., the Normandie.
Knox, W. S., Mass., the Cochran.
Kyle, T. B., Ohio, the Hamilton.
Lacey, J. F., Iowa, Riggs.
Lamb, John, Va., the National.
Landis, C. B., Ind., Portland.
Lanham, S. W. T., Tex., the National.
Lassiter, F. N., Va., the Gordon.
Latimer, A. C., S. C., the National.
Lawrence, G. P., Mass., the Cochran.
Lester, R. E., Ga., the Cairo.
Lever, A. F., S. C., 207 1st st n e.
Lewis, E. B., Ga., the Metropolitan.
Lewis, R. J., Pa., 1010 H st n w.
Little, J. S., Ark., 919 Mass ave n w.
Lindsay, G. H., N. Y., the Ebbitt.
Littauer, L. N., N. Y., the Albany.
Littlefield, C. E., Me., the Hamilton.
Livingston, L. F., Ga., 1765 Madison st n w.
Lloyd, J. T., Mo., 1757 Q st n w.
Long, Chester I., Kan., the Driscoll.
Loud, E. F., Cal., the Cairo.
Lovering, W. C., Mass., 1824 Mass ave.
Maddox, J. W., Ga., the Metropolitan.
Mahon, Thad, Pa., Dewey.
Mahoney, W. H., Ill., the Raleigh.
Mann, Jas R., Ill., 1711 Q st n w.
Marshall, T. F., N. D., the Cochran.
Martin, E. W., S. D., 102 B st n e.
Maynard, H. I., Va., New Willard.
McAndrews, Jas, Ill., the Raleigh.
McCall, S. W., Mass., 1217 N H ave n w.
McCleary, J. T., Minn., the Regent.
McClellan, G. B., N. Y., 1445 R ave n w.
McCullough, P. D., Ark., the Colonial.
McDermott, A. L., N. J., 1715 H st n w.
McLachlin, James, Cal., 1302 Roanoke st.
McLain, F. A., Miss., the Varnum.
McRae, T. C., Ark., the Metropolitan.
Mercer, D. H., Neb., 1303 Roanoke st.
Metcalf, V. Cal., the Arlington.
Meyer, Adolph, La., 1700 Q st n w.
Mickey, J. R., Ill., 1330 Columbia road.
Miers, R. W., Ind., Riggs House.
Minor, Jas M., Kan., 1201 Q st n w.
Minor, E. S., Wis., 45 D st s